

**Chambers of Chief Bankruptcy Judge John J. Thomas** *continued*

**Government:** Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender, County of Luzerne, Pennsylvania (1974-1985); First Assistant Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender, County of Luzerne, Pennsylvania (1984-1985)

**Current Memberships:** Middle District Bankruptcy Bar Association; National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges; Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association

**Staff**

Career Law Clerk **Richard P. Rogers** ..... (570) 831-2531  
Education: Temple 1983 JD  
Judicial Assistant **Catherine M. Sisk** ..... (570) 831-2531

**Chambers of Bankruptcy Judge Mary D. France**

P.O. Box 1263, Harrisburg, PA 17108  
Tel: (717) 901-2845 Fax: (717) 901-2844

**Mary D. France**

Bankruptcy Judge

Began Service: March 3, 2003

**Staff**

Law Clerk **Melanie Sonnenborn** ..... (717) 901-2845  
Began Service: 2009  
E-mail: melanie\_sonnenborn@pawd.uscourts.gov  
Career Law Clerk **John D. Kelly** ..... (717) 901-2846  
E-mail: john\_kelly@pawd.uscourts.gov  
Courtroom Deputy **Joan Goodling** ..... (717) 901-2818  
Judicial Secretary **Erma M. Weigel** ..... (717) 901-2845

**Chambers of Bankruptcy Judge Robert N. Opel**

274 Max Rosenn U.S. Courthouse, 197 South Main Street,  
Wilkes Barre, PA 18701  
Tel: (570) 831-2536 Fax: (570) 821-4069

**Robert N. Opel**

Bankruptcy Judge

Began Service: September 2006

Term Expires: September 2020

**Staff**

Law Clerk **William C. Blasses** ..... (570) 826-6591  
Began Service: September 2008  
Term Expires: September 2010  
Courtroom Deputy **Jane Tracy** ..... (570) 826-6666  
Judicial Secretary **Beth Irving** ..... (570) 826-6318

**United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania**

U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, 700 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Tel: (412) 208-7500 Tel: (412) 644-6374 (PACER)  
Fax: (412) 208-7530  
Internet: www.pawd.uscourts.gov

**Number of Judgeships:** 10

**Number of Vacancies:** 1

**Areas Covered:** Counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Warren, Washington and Westmoreland

**Court Staff**

Clerk of the Court **Robert V. Barth** ..... (412) 208-7500  
E-mail: robert\_barth@pawd.uscourts.gov  
Chief Deputy **Colleen Willison** ..... (412) 208-7518

**United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania** *continued*

Deputy-in-Charge - Erie **Susan Parmeter** ..... (814) 464-9600  
P.O. Box 1820, Erie, PA 16507 Fax: (814) 464-9607  
17 South Park Row, Erie, PA 16501  
Deputy-in-Charge - Johnstown **James Graves** ..... (814) 533-4504  
208 Penn Traffic Bldg., 319 Washington St., Fax: (814) 533-4519  
Johnstown, PA 15901

**Chambers of Chief Judge Gary L. Lancaster**

700 Grant Street, Courtroom 3A, Suite 3250, Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Tel: (412) 208-7400 Fax: (412) 208-7407

**Gary L. Lancaster**

Chief Judge

Date of Birth: 1949

Education: Slippery Rock U 1971 BS; Pittsburgh 1974 JD

Began Service: December 17, 1993

Appointed By: President William J. Clinton

**Government:** Regional Counsel, Human Relations Commission, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1974-1976); Assistant District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney, County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania (1976-1978)

**Judicial:** Magistrate Judge, United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania (1987-1993)

**Legal Practice:** Sole Practitioner (1978-1979); Partner, Cooper & Lancaster (1979-1981); Brown & Smith (1981-1987)

**Current Memberships:** Allegheny County Bar Association; The American Inns of Court; Homer S. Brown Law Association; National Bar Association

**Staff**

Law Clerk **Michael L. Clements** ..... (412) 208-7402  
Began Service: 2009  
Term Expires: 2010  
E-mail: michael\_clements@pawd.uscourts.gov  
Law Clerk **Michelle A. Mantine** ..... (412) 208-7400  
E-mail: michelle\_mantine@pawd.uscourts.gov  
Career Law Clerk (Part-Time) **Padmaja Chivukula** ..... (412) 208-7400  
E-mail: padmaja\_chivukula@pawd.uscourts.gov  
Career Law Clerk (Part-Time) **Teresa Elliot Nixon** ..... (412) 208-7408  
Education: Vanderbilt 1996 JD  
Courtroom Deputy **Michael Palus** ..... (412) 208-7400  
E-mail: michael\_palus@pawd.uscourts.gov  
Court Reporter **Richard Ford** ..... (412) 261-0802  
Judicial Assistant **(Vacant)** ..... (412) 208-7401

**Chambers of District Judge Donetta W. Ambrose**

U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, 700 Grant Street, Suite 3280,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1906  
Tel: (412) 208-7350 Fax: (412) 208-7357  
E-mail: Judge\_Donetta\_Ambrose@pawd.uscourts.gov

**Donetta W. Ambrose**

District Judge

Date of Birth: 1945

Education: Duquesne 1967 BA, 1970 JD

Began Service: 1994

Appointed By: President William J. Clinton

Political Affiliation: Democrat

**Clerkships:** Law Clerk The Honorable Louis L. Manderino, Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania (1970); Law Clerk The Honorable Louis L. Manderino, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (1971-1972)

**Government:** Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1972-1974); Assistant District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney, County of Westmoreland, Pennsylvania (1977-1981)

**Chambers of District Judge Joy Flowers Conti**

5250 U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, 700 Grant Street,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Tel: (412) 208-7330 Fax: (412) 208-7337

**Joy Flowers Conti**

District Judge

Date of Birth: December 7, 1948

Education: Duquesne 1970 BA, 1973 JD

Began Service: August 30, 2002

Appointed By: President George W. Bush

**Academic:** Professor of Law, School of Law, Duquesne University (1976-1982)

**Clerkships:** Law Clerk, Justice Louis L. Manderino, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (1973-1974)

**Legal Practice:** Associate, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP (1974-1976); Partner, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP (1983-1996); Shareholder, Buchanan Ingersoll PC (1996-2002)

**Current Memberships:** Allegheny County Bar Association; American Bankruptcy Institute; American Bar Association; American Bar Foundation, American Bar Association; The Pittsburgh American Inn of Court, The American Inns of Court; American Judicature Society; The American Law Institute; Federal Bar Association; National Association of Women Judges; Pennsylvania Bar Association; Pennsylvania Bar Foundation

**Staff**

Law Clerk **Laurene "Beckie" Kane** ..... (412) 208-7330  
Began Service: September 2009  
E-mail: lauran\_kane@pawd.uscourts.gov  
Law Clerk **Bradley J. Kitlowski** ..... (412) 208-7330  
Term Expires: 2010  
E-mail: bradley\_kitlowski@pawd.uscourts.gov  
Courtroom Deputy **Sharon Conley** ..... (412) 208-7330  
Court Reporter **Karen Earley** ..... (412) 201-2660  
Judicial Assistant **Carole Leonard** ..... (412) 208-7330

**Chambers of District Judge David Stewart Cercone**

U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, 700 Grant Street, Room 7270,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Tel: (412) 208-7363 Fax: (412) 208-7462

**David Stewart Cercone**

District Judge

Date of Birth: 1952

Education: Westminster (PA) 1974 BA; Duquesne 1977 JD

Began Service: September 12, 2002

**Academic:** Adjunct Faculty, Robert Morris College (1993-1995)

**Clerkships:** Law Clerk, Judge Paul R. Zavarella, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas (1978-1979)

**Government:** Assistant District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney, County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania (1979-1981)

**Judicial:** District Justice, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1982-1985)

**Staff**

Courtroom Deputy Clerk **Nancy Trapani** ..... (412) 208-7363  
Court Reporter **Julie A. Kienzie** ..... (412) 261-6122  
Secretary **Kimberly Weinstein** ..... (412) 208-7363